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07/967,646 10/28/92 STAVRIANOPOULOS

J EN274(C2) (

EXAMINER

MARSCHEL, A

18N1/1022

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ART UNIT 7

PAPER NUMBER

1807
DATE MAILED:

10/22/93

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on _____ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
2. Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948.
3. Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
4. Notice of Informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152.
5. Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
6.

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. Claims 27-47 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. Claims 1-26 have been cancelled.

3. Claims _____ are allowed.

4. Claims 27-47 are rejected.

5. Claims _____ are objected to.

6. Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable. not acceptable (see explanation or Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948).

10. The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____ has (have) been approved by the examiner. disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____, has been approved. disapproved (see explanation).

12. Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received not been received been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.

13. Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The title includes methods and structures whereas only compositions and kits are claimed.

If applicant desires priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 based upon a parent application, specific reference to the parent application must be made in the instant application. It is noted that this appears as the first sentence of the specification following the title. Status of the parent application (whether patented or abandoned) should also be included. If a parent application has become a patent, the expression "Patent No." should follow the filing date of the parent application. If a parent application has become abandoned, the expression "abandoned" should follow the filing date of the parent application.

Claims 27-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 27, line 2, and those dependent therefrom, it is unclear whether the "non-porous" limitation is meant to be connected both to the transparent as well as the translucent limitations. Claim 46, part 1), also contains this unclarity.

In claim 47 the use of "sequence" as if it were a composition is vague and indefinite in that a "sequence" is a characteristic of a nucleic acid but not in itself a composition.

35 U.S.C. § 101 reads as follows:

"Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefore, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title".

Claims 27-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because

there is no instantly disclosed utility for a double stranded containing composition. It is acknowledged that probes that are single stranded have utility as probes but after a double stranded form has been produced as cited in claims 27-45, it no longer has a utility such as for detection.

Claims 27-47 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 17-19 of U.S. Patent No. 4,994,373. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both are directed to either compositions, kits, or apparatus containing immobilized polynucleotides directed to soluble signal generation connected with hybridization.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection is a judicially established doctrine based upon public policy and is primarily intended to prevent prolongation of the patent term by prohibiting claims in a second patent not patentably distinct from claims in a first patent. In re Vogel, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970). A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(b) would overcome an actual or provisional rejection on this ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(d).

No claim is allowed.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 180 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 180 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing

of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989).

The CMC Fax Center number is (703) 308-4227 or (703) 305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ardin Marschel, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 308-3894.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

AM

A. MARSCHEL:am
October 18, 1993

M. Parr
MARGARET PARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 1800